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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 248
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION To commend Mr. Jon Kinsey for his honorable
and astute service to the people of Tennessee
as Mayor of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, This legislative body is pleased to recognize the contributions of those
Tennesseans, who, in both their working careers and years of public service, have made
significant contributions to their communities and have provided outstanding leadership in
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jon Kinsey is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest
integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; throughout his exemplary tenure as Mayor of
Chattanooga, he distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an
exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Educated at Boston University and the University of Chattanooga, Mr.
Kinsey has been a resident of his beloved Chattanooga since he was seven years old; he has
been active in community affairs for most of his life, having managed the 1978 campaign to
approve a referendum to elect school board members rather than appointing them; and

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WHEREAS, This active Chattanooga played a key role in the revitalization and urban Renaissance of the Scenic City; his company, Leonard, Kinsey, & Associates, rescued the landmark Chattanooga Choo Choo from bankruptcy and developed the Riverset Apartments, the first apartments built downtown in twenty years; the Bijou Theatre, the only downtown cinema; Riverplace; and the Big River Grille & Brewing Works, Chattanooga's first and only brewpub; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected leader in his city, Jon Kinsey served as Chairman of the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors' Bureau for two years, and he has served sagaciously on the boards of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, the Siskin Foundation, the Chamber Foundation, the Tennessee Aquarium, the Tourist Development Agency, and River Valley Partners; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1997, Mr. Kinsey was elected Mayor of Chattanooga in his first attempt to attain an elected office; he received overwhelming support, winning 54% of the vote in a five-person race; and

WHEREAS, As he concluded his mayoral service on April 16, 2001, Mr. Kinsey completed a term which was marked by numerous improvements in the status of the City of Chattanooga; he earned the respect and admiration of his elected peers and his constituents alike for his dedication to the greater good of his city; and

WHEREAS, Among other highlights of his tenure, Mayor Kinsey launched a national search for a new police chief and worked with the City Council to lower property taxes; and

WHEREAS, He spearheaded the effort to eliminate the Safety Administration Department and allow the Police and Fire Departments to stand alone as individual entities; the move eliminated unnecessary bureaucracy and political competition and created a system which is much more efficient, both fiscally and in the quality of service provided; and

WHEREAS, As mayor, Jon Kinsey remained committed to the revitalization of Chattanooga; with that goal in mind, he created the Neighborhood Service Department,

converted the Parks and Recreation Department to the Department of Parks, Recreation, Arts, and Culture, and advocated Recreate 2008, a ten-year parks and recreation master plan; and

WHEREAS, Due in large measure to Mayor Kinsey's efforts, Chattanooga experienced a significant increase in economic development during the past four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinsey's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinsey is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, His many accomplishments aside, Mr. Kinsey is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, the former Candy Crutchfield, children, and his grandchildren, and he is devoted to the highest standard of family values; and

WHEREAS, Jon Kinsey is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; his dedication to progress, astute foresight, and great energy have had a profound impact upon the lives of the people of Chattanooga, and he is worthy of much praise and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Mr. Jon Kinsey for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Mayor of Chattanooga and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.